

ANDREAS (ANDREW)
BURGENER AND
MAGDALENA MEIER
BURGENER

Andreas Burgener, son of Jacob Burgener



and Anna Teuscher. Born September 13, 1846, in Faulenell, Switzerland.

Married Magdalena Meier November 25, 1870, in Switzerland.

Died November 21, 1933, Midway.

Magdalena Meier, daughter of Christian Meier and Susanna Rothemmund Meier. Born June 29, 1846, at Krutigen, Bern, Switzerland. Died March 25, 1925, Midway.

Andreas Burgener's home was the town of Faulensee, Switzerland. The Franco-Prussian war occurred in Europe in 1870-71. Andreas Burgener was in this war as a military band leader. Because of the many wars at this time, many of the German and Swiss people migrated to America. The Mormon missionaries were doing a great deal of work in various towns in Switzerland, and Andreas Burgener and his family were converted to The Church of Jesus Christ and migrated to Utah.

Andreas Burgener went to school from the age of six to 16. He learned to play the trumpet in school. When he was not in school he was with his father on a merchandise boat which the family owned, which hauled many commodities. They sailed across Lake of Thun. They also owned a stone quarry and hauled stone to the small towns along the lake shores. These men were large and strong and able to do heavy work. Andreas at the age of 25 years was 6 feet 2 inches tall and weighed 225 pounds. One season late in the fall, Andreas and his brother Frederick were hauling stone on Lake of Thun. Frederick slipped, lost his balance, fell in the icy water and was drowned. The family owned three cows and it was Andreas job to milk them and help with the work on the 30-acre farm. As they lived on the shores of the lake the boys did a lot of fishing. The family also had a fruit orchard and raised apples, cherries, grapes, etc.

When Andreas became of age he went to military school, majoring in music. He

played cornet in a six-piece orchestra, and became a band leader in Faulensee, Switzerland. During this period, he married Magdalena Meier. Soon after this the war between France and Russia ended. The political conditions were very bad. The Burgener family became converts to the LDS Church, and made plans to migrate to America. In 1874 they left Switzerland, and arrived in Salt Lake City, Utah. They had two small children, Frederick, and Albert Burgener. They brought his father, Jacob with them.

Before leaving Switzerland, the missionaries advised Andreas to procure band instruments and take to Utah, because of the scarcity of musical instruments in America at that time. He brought seven instruments and organized the first band in Wasatch County and the second band in Utah. The members of his first band were: Andreas Burgener, leader; Peter Abplanalp, John Burgener, nephew of Andreas, and his brother Christian Burgener, Conrad Abegglen, Christensen Burgi and others.

On the way to Utah as they passed through Chicago, they were greatly shocked to find it had burned to the ground. They were met in Salt Lake by many friends and by Andreas' brother Jacob who had migrated ten years earlier. Jacob Burgener brought two teams of oxen from Heber City to transport the Burgeners and the Barbens to upper Provo valley to the small town of Midway. It took two days to travel 45 miles. On July 3rd, they left Salt Lake and spent the first night near Schneiderville, next morning, July 4th they resumed their journey. In a few hours they passed Park City and at 4:30 they were in Midway, which was to be their home for the rest of their lives. It being Sunday afternoon, Sacrament meeting was just dismissed, and they met many dear old friends who had previously come from Switzerland. It was a big occasion, and their neighbors did everything to help these new arrivals get a good start in this strange new country.

In Switzerland, many of the people had small farms and during the summer several families pooled their milk cows into one large herd, and drove them into the Alps where there was wonderful green feed. Near the pastures they built cabins where they made cheese, for which the Swiss are famous. They decided to organize a similar dairy business in Midway, which they did,

combining their herds. Mr. Barben handled the dairy business, while Andreas took care of the farms in the valley. They pastured their cows in the beautiful mountain meadows called White Pines. It was north of Midway in the mountains about eight miles away, and several lakes helped it to look like Switzerland.

Andreas and Magdalena had nine children: Albert and Fred, Carolina, who died as a child, Eliza Abegglen Carlile, Ida Alder, Alma Burgener, Arnold B., Lena Zenger and Walter B. Albert died at the age of 15.

*1st Band in Wasatch
County & 2nd Band
in Utah.*

- need pictures

*add
picture
of
band*

